GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:836
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2002
REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST NEW IMPORT POLICY
M.H. AMBAREESH

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the introduction of the New Import Policy, most of the manufacturers have started trading in the imported goods in place of manufacturing goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations against the New Import Policy, particularly from Southern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (d) Import restrictions on items are being removed since the early 1990`s as part of economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of our International obligations. At present, all the items on which import restrictions were maintained on account of balance of payment reasons are freely importable. The removal of restrictions has not altered the overall rate of growth of imports of the country. The growth rate of imports during April-March 2002 was only 6.7% in Rupee terms and only 1.08% in dollar terms. The import data for 714 items, QRs on which were removed on 31.03.2001, for the year 2001-2002, does not indicate any unusual surge in growth in import of these items. Similarly, the import of 300 sensitive items, which is being monitored by a Standing Group of Secretaries, has also not indicated any unusual surge in growth in import of these items during the same period. The picture that emerges is that of normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors. On the other hand, India`s exports have grown from US $ 17998.00 million in 1990-91 to US $ 43998.53 million in 2001-2002, an increase of 144% i.e. approx. 2.5 times. Further, imports are being constantly monitored and the Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff and other available mechanism that any possible sudden increase in imports do not cause any serious injury to the domestic industry. From time to time, Government receives representations against the import of certain items, in respect of which appropriate use of tariff and other available mechanism like anti dumping etc are resorted to after due inquiries.